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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/813,750	DANNENMAIER ET AL.	
	Examiner Krishnan S. Menon	Art Unit 1723	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to RCE of 4/14/05.

2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2 and 5-13; RENUMBERED 1-11.

3.  The drawings filed on 30 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.

4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached

1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

(b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**

7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Arnold Krumholz on 5/10/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Independent claims 1 and 10 were amended, and claims 3 and 14 were cancelled to make the application in condition for allowance. The amended claims list is attached to the end of this action, starting on a fresh page.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1,2 and 5-13 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior arts are Oscarsson'005 and Baurmeister'900. None of these references teach the method of making and the hollow fiber membrane in which the two halves of the housing shell are joined together using the potting compound, simultaneously while potting the fiber ends together and with the housing. None of the references teach the structure required in the hollow fiber membrane (the 'potting strip') for the simultaneous sealing of the housing halves and potting of the fiber ends. There

is also no suggestion in any of the references to combine the references to arrive at the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krishnan S. Menon whose telephone number is 571-272-1143. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda L. Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Krishnan S. Menon  
Patent Examiner  
5/18/05

  
JOSEPH DRODGE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

***Amended Claims List***

1. (currently amended) A method for producing hollow fiber membrane-containing filters including a filter housing having a first portion and a second portion and including a first end and a second end, said method comprising

laying a plurality of said hollow fibers in said first portion of said filter housing to form a bundle of said hollow fibers, comprising mounting a plurality of said first portions of said filter housing on a rotary winding wheel, continuously feeding said hollow fibers to said plurality of first portions of said filter housing and said rotary winding wheel is rotated whereby said hollow fibers are laid serially in said plurality of first portions of said filter housings.

forming said first and second portions of said filter housing into said filter housing,

connecting said plurality of hollow fibers together and to at least one of said first and second ends of said filter housing and simultaneously sealing said first and second portions of said filter housing together by applying a potting compound through a potting aperture and along a potting strip disposed substantially along the entire length of said filter housing through an outlet aperture into said at least one of said first and second ends of said filter housing containing said plurality of hollow fibers to provide both a sealed housing and a connected plurality of hollow fibers, and

cutting said ends of said hollow fibers at said at least one of said first and second ends of said filter housing whereby said plurality of hollow fibers include open ends.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 including sealing terminal end portions to said first and second ends of said filter housing so as to cover said open ends of said hollow fiber bundle.

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second portions of said filter housing are flexibly connected to each other, and wherein said forming of said first and second portions of said filter housing together includes swinging said first and second portions together.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein said first and second portions of said filter housing are flexibly connected to each other by means of a film hinge.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second portions of said filter housing are each half shell shaped, whereby said filter housing is tubular.

8. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said sealing of said terminal end portions to said first and second ends of said filter housing comprises a sealing method selected from the group consisting of gluing, welding and screwing.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 including clamping said first and second portions of said filter housing together prior to said connecting step.

10. (currently amended) A hollow filter membrane-containing filter comprising a tubular filter and a filter housing having a first portion and a second portion and including a first end and a second end and a potting aperture accessible after said first and second portions of said filter housing are connected together, said potting aperture

disposed between said first end and said second end, a potting strip substantially along the entire length of said filter housing and an outlet aperture connecting said potting strip to said first end of said filter housing, a bundle of hollow fibers disposed substantially parallel to each other within said filter housing, said first and second portions of said filter housing comprising half shell shapes, and potting compound connecting together said bundle of said hollow fibers at said first end of said tubular filter housing, connecting said bundle of hollow fibers to said filter housing, and connecting said first and second portions of said filter housing together substantially along the entire length of said potting strip along said filter housing.

11. (previously presented) The hollow filter membrane containing filter of claim 10 including a flexible connector connecting said first and second portions of said filter housing together.

12. (original) The hollow fiber membrane containing filter of claim 11 wherein said flexible connector comprises a film hinge.

13. (previously presented) The hollow fiber membrane containing filter of claim 10 including clamping members for connecting said first and second portions of said filter housing together.

14. (cancelled)